

Harpsichord & *fortepiano*

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Musical Instrument Research Catalog
(MIRCAt)

News in the early keyboard world

Soundboard

The **York Early Music Foundation**, a registered charity set up to support the annual Early Music Festival, has secured a grant of £50 000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation to help create a National Centre for Early Music in York. The Administrative Director, Delma Tomlin, says that their £1.5 million National Lottery grant is conditional upon the Foundation raising a further £500 000. "Whilst we remain very optimistic that we will reach this target within the next few months, the very visible support of the Garfield Weston Foundation is extraordinarily well timed and welcome. I couldn't be more thrilled and grateful!"

During 1997, supported by a **Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship**, the London-based harpsichordist Giulia Nuti worked in private and public collections in Italy. She is preparing a study of improvisation and elaboration in Italian keyboard playing of the 17th and 18th centuries, using manuscript sources and the music itself, as well as theoretical treatises. Style in playing *basso continuo* in Italian music has been neglected, lending a uniformity to modern-day performances that is not a true reflection of contemporary practice. There are few Italian sources currently available in (often inaccurate) translations, and there are difficulties in gaining access to original sources in Italian collections. The sources also present problems of interpretation. The results of Ms Nuti's work will be eagerly awaited.

Harpsichord courses in 1998 with **Penelope Cave** include her regular Wednesday evening class, 6:30-8:30pm, at Morley College (tel: (0)171-928-8501); Exploring Bach's '48' on 26-28 June at Benslow, Herts. (tel: (0)1462-459446); 'French music for viol and harpsichord'

with Peter Wendland, also at Benslow (provisional date 2-4 October); and on 20-22 November 'The English Virginalists' at Fittleworth, West Sussex (tel: (0)1798-865306).

The **Purcell Room Early Music Series**, under the artistic direction of Philip Pickett, continues with a concert by The Cardinal's Musick on Tuesday 12 May at 7.30pm. The programme features anthems by Tallis juxtaposed with Byrd's four-part Mass, followed by anthems and madrigals by Byrd and Weekes. From 6pm on Monday 8 June the **Marathon Harpsichord Extravaganza** takes place with David Roblou, Paul Nicholson, Richard Egarr, Gary Cooper, Jan Waterfield, Rob Howarth and Sharona Joshua. The publicity says: "Come and go as you please, or stay for four hours of pure delight; but whatever you do, don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime gathering of our leading early keyboard specialists who will play their favourite solos, duos and more. The stage will be overflowing with every conceivable variety of harpsichord and virginals, and the musical mystery-tour will range from early 16th-century Italian dances through to Bach's Italian Concerto — scored for seven players!"

The Parley of Instruments explore *The Purcell Tradition* in their **Cambridge Early Music Summer School** which runs from 26 July to 4 August at Trinity Hall. Continuo players who can read from figured bass are welcome to apply as are baroque string players, wind players, singers, and harp and lute continuo players. Tel/fax: (0)1223-847330.

Events with a particular early keyboard interest in this year's **York Early Music Festival** (3-12 July) include Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* sung by Stephen Varcoe

with Peter Seymour at the fortepiano (5 July at 10pm, Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall) following a programme of virtuoso Baroque string music played by Elizabeth Wallfisch (violin), Richard Tunnicliffe (cello) and Paul Nicholson (harpsichord) which starts at 7pm. Virtuoso viol music performed by Richard Boothby with Shalev Ad-El on the harpsichord can be heard at the Unitarian Chapel, St Saviourgate (7 July, 1pm). Their recent recording of the Bach sonatas is reviewed in this issue. Ton Koopman and his wife Tini Mathot perform harpsichord duets in St Michael-le-Belfry on 4 July at 7:30pm. Needless to say, these are only a few of the many attractive concerts in the festival — for further details telephone (0)1904-658338.

The **Festival Musica Antica a Magnano** in Italy offers an impressive series of candlelight concerts during August and September including, on 26 August, Christopher Hogwood and the Academy of Ancient Music with a programme of Handel, Purcell, Biber, Schmelzer and Pachelbel. On 11 September Colin Tilney performs 18th-century Austrian and German music. All concerts take place at 9pm; entrance is free but places are limited. The festival ties in with a series of early keyboard courses. For information telephone [39](0)15-679176 or 679260.

Courses of interest among those on offer at the **Dartington International Summer School** include the Dartington Festival Baroque Orchestra directed by David Roblou running from 1-15 August, and a course on French Baroque chamber music with harpsichordist Colin Tilney running from 1-8 August. There is also a series of five lectures on the *Well-Tempered Clavier* by John

Henry, which take place between 18 and 25 July. Telephone (0)1803-867068 / fax 868068.

The East Anglian Academy of Organ and Early Keyboard Music has its Festival from 28-30 August, when there is a chance to hear organ, harpsichord and clavichord recitals. The Academy also has a programme of music running throughout the summer in Suffolk churches. Telephone the Director, Malcolm Russell, on (0)1728-724456 for further details.

ODDS AND ENDS

The **Beverley Early Music Festival** continues to go from strength to strength. Running from choral evensong in the Minster on Thursday 21 May to the following Monday, the Festival encompasses established groups such as Sirinu, The Tallis Scholars, New London Consort, The Orlando Consort and the The King's Consort with newer names such as The Quintessential Sackbut & Cornett Ensemble, Tintagel and The Brook Street Band. The University of Hull Early Music Ensemble also pay their annual visit to the Festival, and the NE Early Music Forum offers a workshop for singers and instrumentalists on *The Island Princess*, a semi-opera by Daniel Purcell and Jeremiah Clark. Beverley is a pleasant market town in the East Riding of Yorkshire and the Festival is a good way to catch up with the current state of early-music-making in England. Tel: (0)1482-884354.

If you are in Germany this summer you might want to catch some early keyboard recitals at the Schloß **Bad Krozingen**, which houses a fine collection of historic instruments. On 5 June and 3 July at 8pm is the 'Sonderkonzert' in which the collection's curator, Sally Fortino, plays and talks about a variety of early keyboards including organ, spinet, virginals, harpsichord, clavichord and

fortepiano. On 19 June at 8pm there will be a performance of Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* by Kurt Widmer (baritone) and Jean-Jacques Dünki (fortepiano). For tickets telephone [49](0)76-33-37-00.

The **Musical Museum** at Brentford is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks including instrument restoration, cataloguing and guiding. If you're interested write to Michael Ryder, The Musical Museum, 368 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 0BD.

A new national telephone line, **Learning Direct**, has been set up to help guide adults through the maze of information about learning and training available in the UK. It is aimed at people seeking work, are in work but want to gain qualifications or those who have more leisure time on their hands and who want to learn for fun. It also gives information on grants, bursaries and child-care facilities. Worth a call? Learning Direct is on freephone 0800 100 900 and open to callers from 9am to 9pm weekdays and 9am to 12 am on Saturdays. Calls are free and confidential, and advice is impartial.

More than 700 enquiries from more than 35 countries around the world have been received for the fifth **Scottish International Piano Competition**. This is an increase of over 50% on the last event in 1995. Thirty-six competitors will fly into Glasgow to take part in the First Stage at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama on 11 September. Eventually four finalists will be chosen for the concerto finals on 19 September. Tickets go on sale on 1 May. Tel: (0)141-248-1611.

www.chandos-records.com is how to find the new web site from Chandos Records. On the site you can find the entire catalogue with full tracking listings, colour

photos, recording dates etc., together with a sophisticated cross-referencing system ensuring that any disc is easy to find. Discs can be located by composer, artist, series, genre or even recording venue! There is also a 'Latest News' section and CDs may be bought directly on the net. Details of Chandos' distributors throughout the world with the details of the other labels they distribute are also to be found.

Until now the chances of recovering stolen musical equipment have been extremely minimal, but this is no longer the case claim Alpha-Scientific Ltd., the creators of **Alpha.Dot**, a revolutionary product which provides irrefutable proof of ownership at very little cost. The Alpha.Dot marking system features hundreds of tiny microdots, each about the size of a pinhead and barely visible to the naked eye. These are easily applied in a clear adhesive lacquer, and each individual microdot is printed with a unique personal identification number. This is then registered to the owner of the marked property and will stay with them for life. For more information tel: (0)1727-875959; fax: (0)1727-875550.

There are two concerts to come in the series '*...at the kinges court*' taking place in The Bury Theatre at the **Royal Armouries Museum** in Leeds. On 14 May Charivari Agréable will be performing chamber music from the time of Charles I, and on 11 June Concert Royal will present a programme entitled 'Music from Handel's London'. Both concerts start at 7:30pm. For booking information telephone (0)113-220-1926 (24 hours).

English Heritage have arranged nearly 600 events, many with historic music, at their properties throughout the summer. For a free 1998 Events Diary call (0)171-973-3434.